

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 473 without my signature.

This year, because state general fund revenues increased as a result of a rebounding economy, I was very pleased to have approved the student fee decrease for community college students from \$26 per unit down to \$20 per unit. The fee reduction will be a great benefit for students and their families.

This bill contains five items related to student fees at the California Community Colleges (CCC). The most significant among them are provisions intended to set the stage for implementing a long-term student fee policy for the CCC. The development of a long-term student fee policy, if determined to be in the best interests of the state, should benefit from the input of all the segments of higher education, the Legislature, the Administration, the state's agencies focused on higher education issues, the business community and other stakeholders. This bill focuses solely on the Board of Governors and the CCC Chancellor without taking into account a larger state interest.

For these reasons, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger